



JOHN CROOK

John Crook is one of the hardy pioneers who helped to blaze the trails into this valley. He assisted in the early surveys of farm land and town lots and took part in most of the public improvements that have been started since. He took a prominent part in the Indian troubles, passed through the hard-times period when chopped wheat, smut and all, was at a premium, and braved all the other dangers and hardships incident to pioneer life in those early days.

Mr. Crook was born at Turton township, Lancashire, England, on October 11, 1831. When a small boy he attended school and worked in a factory, filling bobbins for tape weaving, alternately, spending half the day at school and the other half at the factory. This continued until he was about twelve years of age when he was given steady employment in the factory, at from five to eight shillings a week. He kept this job until Christmas time in 1850, when he started for Utah with his father and two sisters. They landed at New Orleans March 14, 1851, and reached Council Bluffs about nine weeks later. He stopped

there for five years, during which time his father died and his sisters married. He came on to the valleys in 1856, settling at Provo, where he married Mary Giles. Two years later he made his first trip to this valley in company with J. C. Snow, the surveyor, and others and assisted in surveying a plat of land about one and a half miles square west of Heber City. The next year, 1859, he moved his family up from Provo and established his home here.

John Crook has taken a lively interest in the establishment and maintenance of schools, amusements, Sunday schools and, in fact, all other social and church organizations. He also kept a fairly good record of weather conditions, crop reports and other statistics for many years and is considered good authority on these points. He has been very successful as a farmer, gardener, and fruit grower and, with his sons, has opened up one of the best sandstone quarries in the state.

He has been volunteer correspondent for the Agricultural Bureau, D. C., for thirty-two years and fourteen years in the Weather Bureau service.